

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /097 W

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R 061000Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7551

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

EMBASSY PRAGUE 918

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, EG

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: STATE OF UNION AND ECON MESSAGES

1. ECONOMIC MESSAGE: WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS AND REWRITING FOUR SOFIA DAILIES (RD, OF, ZZ AND KOOPERATIVNO SELO) CARRIED BTA REPORT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S ECONOMIC MESSAGE TO CONGRESS UNDER HEADLINES RANGING FROM "GLOOMY PERSPECTIVES" (RD) AND "PROBLEMS INCREASE" (KOOPERATIVNO SELO) TO MORE NEUTRAL "ECONOMIC SITUATION IN USA" (ZZ) AND "ECONOMIC REPORT OF US PRESIDENT" (OF). ACCOUNTS HIGHLIGHTED PORTIONS OF MESSAGE DEALING WITH INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONCLUDE OUTLOOK FOR 1974 CHARACTERIZED BY ACUTE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. REPORTS ALSO CITE FIGURES FOR INCREASE IN EAST-WEST TRADE DURING 1973.

2. STATE OF THE UNION: FEB. 3, RD CARRIES SIGNED COMMENTARY ON STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, (ONLY PRESS COVERAGE SO FAR) HEADLINED "BETWEEN SCEPTICISM AND OPTIMISM". AUTHOR VALADIMIR LANKOV QUESTIONS PRESIDENT'S JUSTIFICATION FOR "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM" REFLECTED
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IN MESSAGE AND IN REPLY QUOTES SENATOR HUMPHREY TO EFFECT THAT

SPEECH REFLECTS PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL CONDITION RATHER THAN THAT OF THE COUNTRY AND CRITIZING PRESIDENT FOR CONTENTING HIMSELF WITH PROMISES OF NEW GUARANTEES OF PERSONAL FREEDOMS INSTEAD OF APOLOGIZING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR WATERGATE. PIECE ALSO CITES US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT ISSUE ON US ECONOMY CALLING PRESIDENT NIXON UNIQUE IN NUMBER AND MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS HE FACES IN 1974. AFTER REHEARSING INFLATION, ENERGY SHORTAGE AND POSSIBILITY OF RECESSION, COMMENTARY APPLAUDS PRESIDENT'S DETENTE POLICY

AND DETERMINATION TO PRESS FOR MFN FOR SOVIETS. PIECE CONCLUDES WITH PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION HIS MAIN OBJECTIVE IS "TO ESTABLISH STRUCTURE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD..." AND ENDORSES WASHINGTON'S "POLITICAL REALISM AND SOBER APPROACH IN SETTLEMENT OF SOME PRESSING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS DURING PAST FEW YEARS.

3. COMMENT: ATTEMPT TO BALANCE CRITICAL EMPHASIS ON NEGATIVE ASPECTS WITH POSITIVE COMMENT ON DETENTE, ETC. REFLECTS RELATIVE IMPROVEMENT IN TREATMENT OF US BY BULGARIAN MEDIA. HUMPHREY QUOTE RE WATERGATE IS RELATIVELY OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO MAJOR US NEWS STORY, UNUSUAL IN BULGARIAN PRESS WHICH HAS GIVEN WATERGATE MINIMAL PROPAGANDA PLAY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENT, STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA00159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740251/aaaabwfu.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: STATE OF UNION AND ECON MESSAGES
TAGS: PFOR, BU, EG, US, (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005